Re Box No.V

1. The present report makes reference to the following documents:

   D1: "IEEE standard Part 11: wireless LAN medium access control (MAC) and physical layer (PHY) specification. (ISO/IEC 8802-11, ANSI/IEEE Std 802.11-1999) Chapter 9: MAC sublayer functional description" ISO/IEC 8802-11 ANSI/IEEE STD 802.11, XX, XX, 20 August 1999 (1999-08-20), Pages 70-97, XP002207974

   D2: WALKE B ET AL: "Protocols for a wireless ATM multihop network" BROADBAND COMMUNICATIONS, 1998. ACCESSING, TRANSMISSION, NETWORKING, PROCEEDINGS. 1998 INTERNATIONAL ZURICH SEMINAR ON ZURICH, SWITZERLAND 17-19 FEB. 1998, NEW YORK, NY, USA, IEEE, US, 17 February 1998 (1998-02-17), Pages 75-82, XP010277017 ISBN: 0-7803-3893-6

2. **Claim 1** relates to a method for signaling relating to an intended ad-hoc data transmission from a first radio station to a second radio station. Such a method, as assumed in the preamble of Claim 1, is already disclosed in the cited document **D1** (WLAN specification IEEE 802.11), in which a collision avoidance algorithm (collision avoidance protocol CSMA/CA) is described, by means of which the ad-hoc data transmission from a first radio station to a second radio station of an ad-hoc system is prepared.

   However, only **one** previously defined frequency is available to the radio stations in **D1** for their communication, whereas a **number of sub-bands** of a frequency range (e.g. a

number of OFDM sub-bands) are assigned to the radio stations according to Claim 1. Admittedly, the use of a frequency band (OFDM) which is divided into a plurality of sub-bands is already known from the developments of the IEEE 802.11 specification disclosed in **D1**. However, the effects on the CSMA/CA protocol are not described therein.

According to the subject matter of Claim 1, the first radio station sends the second radio station a notification (RTS) relating to the forthcoming data transmission via one or more sub-bands which have been assigned to the first radio station or the second radio station for the data transmission.

Such a method is neither disclosed nor suggested by the available prior art documents, either individually or in combination. Admittedly, document **D2** describes a signaling method in an ad-hoc system, in which the communication frequencies are dynamically distributed. However, the signaling relating to an intended ad-hoc data transmission between the radio stations takes place via a separate channel (ACH). Neither **D1** nor **D2** specifies the effects on the CSMA/CA protocol of using a frequency band which is divided into a plurality of sub-bands.

Consequently, the subject matter of Claim 1 must considered novel and inventive; PCT Article 33(2) and (3). The subject matter of Claim 1 is likewise industrially applicable; PCT Article 33(4).

The above findings apply equally to the **independent Claim 7** which defines the corresponding method in relation to the second radio station (i.e. the radio station receiving the

notification) and to the **independent Claims 13, 15, 17 and 18** which define the corresponding radio stations and computer program products. Therefore all of the Claims 7, 13, 15, 17 and 18 likewise satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33.

The **dependent Claims 2 to 6, 8 to 12, 14 and 16** relate to advantageous developments of the subject matter of the Claims 1, 7, 13 and 15 and therefore likewise satisfy all the requirements of PCT Article 33.

3. Further remarks

3.1 The expression **"in particular"** in **Claim 7** should be avoided, since it can cause ambiguity (see PCT Guidelines, Chapter II-5.40). An expression such as "in particular" does **not** restrict the scope of a claim, because the feature following the expression is regarded as entirely **optional**.